

Summary: Intervention & Options

Department /Agency: DCSF	Title: Impact Assessment of Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2011	
Stage: Consultation	Version: 1.1	Date: 21 December 2009
Related Publications: Draft Statutory Instrument 2011 No [] Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2011		

Available to view or download at:

<http://www.>

Contact for enquiries: Jocelyn Shaw/John Perryman

Telephone: 020 7783 8799/8263

What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?

The AHDC programme funding began in CSR 2008-11. The programme includes significant ring-fenced funding for short breaks provision and field force support through Together for Disabled Children. Short breaks are what parents of disabled children told us would make the most difference to their lives. By 2011, all local authorities will be delivering the Full Service Offer in relation to short breaks. These regulations will preserve that service and ensure that every local authority continues to deliver short breaks.

What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?

(1) To maintain short breaks services beyond the life of the AHDC programme (2) To ensure a range of short breaks is available to families with disabled children in every area- equal to the 'full service offer'. The range provided must be able to meet the needs of different families. (3) To ensure that local authorities continue to work with groups representing parents of disabled children in design and delivery of short breaks services- ensuring services are appropriate to the local area (4) To ensure cooperation across Children's Trusts (particularly LA and PCT) for the provision of a joined up offer

What policy options have been considered? Please justify any preferred option.

Option 1. Maintain status quo - this assumes that ring fenced funding and field force support can be continued into the next CSR period. It is likely that in fact the funding will be put into the baseline post 2011, and maintaining a dedicated fieldforce would run counter to the Government's aim to reduce and rationalise such services.

Option 2. (Preferred). Regulations to make explicit LA duties for short break services and reinforce and strengthen LA action to continue to develop and improve their short break services.

When will the policy be reviewed to establish the actual costs and benefits and the achievement of the desired effects? Independent evaluation of the impact of short breaks on disabled children and families is underway and will report in March, September, 2010 and March 2011. NI 54, the national indicator on parental satisfaction with disabled children's services, provides a way to monitor progress annually.

Ministerial Sign-off For Consultation stage Impact Assessments:

I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impact of the leading options.

Signed by the responsible Minister:

Date:

1-02-10